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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01108 171226 Z

53
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

AID-20 NIC-01 RSR-01 /104 W
---------- 082316
R 162255 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3755

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EO 11652: N/ A
TAGS: CI, PINT
SUBJ: POTENTIAL SPLIT IN RADICAL PARTY?

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. OPPOSITION PRESS IS NOW DEVOTING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO VARIOUS RECENT EXPULSIONS IN RADICAL PARTY AND IS FORECASTING " PURGE" OF MEMBERS WHO SEEK TO WITHDRAW PARTY FROM UP COALITION. END SUMMARY.

2. OPPOSITION PRESS IS GIVING PROMINENT COVERAGE TO WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS RAPIDLY APPROACHING INTERNAL CRISIS IN RADICAL PARTY (PR), A MINOR MEMBER OF UP COALITION. SHORTLY AFTER MARCH 4 ELECTION, PR EXPELLED TUCAPEL JIMENEZ, HEAD OF GOVT EMPLOYEES ASSN (ANEF) WHO HAS BEEN OUTSPOKENLY CRITICAL OF GOVT' S WAGE READJUSTMENT PROPOSALS (SANTIAGO 0569). ON MAR 14, PR' S YOUTH BRANCH (JRR) ANNOUNCED EXPULSION OF TWELVE FARLY PROMINENT MEMBERS INCLUDING TWO JRR REPS ON PARENT PARTY' S EXECUTIVE BOARD. ANNOUNCED REASON FOR OUSTER WAS FOR " BETRAYING POLITICAL LINE OF JRR . . . AND FOLLOWING ADVENTUROUS, DECEITFUL AND PSEUDO- REVOLUTIONARY POLICIES." OPPOSITION PRESS CLAIMED TWELVE WERE " HARD- LINERS" AND CITES PARALLEL TO MAPU SPLIT. PRO- GOVT PRESS HAS LIMITED ITSELF TO FACTUAL REPORTING OF JIMENEZ AND JRR EXPULSIONS.

3. OPPOSITION PRESS MARCH 16 REPORTED ALL SENIOR PR GOVT OFFICE- HOLDERS INCLUDING PR' S TWO MINISTER AND FIVE UNDER
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SECRETARIES HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO " PLACE THEIR JOBS AT DISPOSITION OF PARTY." IGNACIO LAGNO, FORMER SANTIAGO MAYOR AND UNSUCCESSFUL DEPUTY CANDIDATE MARCH 4, WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT THOSE PR MEMBERS WHO BEHAVED " CORRECTLY" IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN WILL REMAIN IN THEIR JOBS WHILE THOSE WHO WERE " NEGLIGENT IN THEIR DUTIES TO THE PARTY" WILL BE REPLACED. RIGHT-WING LA SEGUNDA HEADLINED LAGNO STATEMENT AS " PURGE IN PR."

4. OFFICIAL PR POST- ELECTION STATEMENT PRINTED MARCH 7 AND SIGNED BY SULE PRAISED UP " VICTORY," CLAIMED " TRAITORS" TO PR (I. E. PIR, PDR) HAD RECEIVED THEIR JUST COMEUPPANCE FROM VOTERS, AND PLEDGED FULL PR SUPPORT TO UP PROGRAM. PR OFFICER ARCALAUS CORONEL TOOK SIMILAR LINE IN MARCH 12 AND 15 TV APPEARANCES, REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZING " IMPORTANT" PR ROLE WITHIN UP.

5. PDC LA PRENSA MARCH 16 SPECULATED BASIC CONFLICT WITHIN PR IS BETWEEN PARTY LEADERSHIP HEADED BY SEN ANSELMO SULE WHO WANT TO KEEP PR IN UP COALITION AT ALL COSTS VERSUS MANY PARTY RAN- AND- FILE WHO WANT PR TO PULL OUT OF UP AND GOVT; SULE GROUP, CLAIMED LA PRENSA, IS STAGING " PREVENTIVE COUP" TO REMOVE ANY PARTY MEMBERS WHO DISAGREE WITH PR LEADERSHIP FROM KEY GOVT POSTS. LA PRENSA CITED VARIOUS REAL AND IMAGINED SLIGHTS PR RECEIVED DURING CAMPAIGN FROM BOTH SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES AND PR' S POOR PERFORMAND MAR 4 (3.5 PERCENT OF VOTE, LOSS OF ONE SENATE AND SEVEN DEPUTY SEATS) TO BUTTRESS ITS ANALYSIS. PR LEADERS HAVE ANNOUNCED MEETING WITH ALLENDE NEXT WEEK " TO DISCUSS PARTY AFFAIRS."

6. COMMENT. WHILEPR' S INTERNAL PROBLEMS, IF TRUE, ARE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO MAPU- TYPE " HARDLINE" VS. " SOFT- LINE" SPLIT, IT IS THE SECOND UP PARTY WHOSE INTERNAL DIFFERENCES HAVE BECOME SUBJECT OF PUBLIC COMMENT SINCE MARCH 4 ELECTION. WELL- INFORMED SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBER WHO HOLDS MIDDLE- LEVEL GOVT POSITION CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT SENIOR PR GOVT OFFICIALS HAD BEEN ORDERED TO SIGN RESIGNATIONS AND TURN THEM IN TO PR LEADERSHIP, A MOVE HE SAID IS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE UNHAPPINESS IN PR RANKS. HE DISTRINGUISHED BETWEEN PR AND MAPU SITUATION S CLAIMING THEY ARE DUE TO BASICALLY DIFFERNT FACTORS.
DAVIS

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